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Sadat's Emissary Flys to Pyongyang

President Kim Il Sung received the special envoy of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt on February 9.

Present on the occasion were Mohamed Hassan Mohamed El Tohamy, Vice-Prime Minister at the Presidency of the Arab Republic of Egypt and political adviser to the President, who is special envoy of President Mohamed Anwar El Sadat of the A.R.E., and his party.

Ho Dam, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, was present there.

Also on hand was Mohamed Zaki El Feki, Charge d'Affaires ad Interim of the Egyptian embassy in Pyongyang.

The special envoy courteously conveyed the regards of President Mohamed Anwar El Sadat to President Kim Il Sung.

He expressed thanks for this and had a conversation with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The special envoy and his party flew to Pyongyang on Feb. 7.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea arranged a banquet on the evening of Feb. 7 in honour of the special envoy.

Vice-President Pak Sung Chul spoke at the banquet.

President Kim Il Sung received on Feb. 9 the special envoy of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. (KCNA Radiophoto)

Desire of Entire Arab People

There may be various ways to solve the Middle East question, he noted, and declared: If the question is solved in conformity to the desire of the entire Arab people and on the basis of respect for the dignity of the Arab nation, no matter by what method it may be achieved, we think it will be a good thing.

If a fair solution of the Middle East question is to be realized, the Israeli aggressors must withdraw from all Arab lands which they illegally occupied and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including the right to self-determination and the right to found an independent state must be ensured, he said.

This, he stated, is the unanimous will and demand of the Egyptian people and all other Arab people and the world peace-loving people.

Today the Egyptian Government is striving to solve at an early date the Middle East question which has brought a big calamity to the Arab people and thus remove the danger of a war and achieve peace in this region, he said.

He denounced the Zionists for harbouring an expansionist ambition as ever and refusing to withdraw from the Arab lands they occupied and to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in disregard of the peaceloving efforts of the Egyptian Government.

If all the Arab countries organically combine their national interests and the interests of all the Arab people and fight in firm unity for their common goal, the Middle East question will be solved in conformity with the will and desire of the Arab people and in favour of their liberation cause, the speaker emphasized.

Warmly welcoming the guests' visit to our country, Pak Sung Chul said: The dispatch of the special envoy to our country by respected His Excellency President Sadat is a clear manifestation of the deep respect and trust cherished by the President and the Egyptian people for the respected and beloved leader of our people Comrade Kim Il Sung and clear proof of the daily strengthening of the friendly and cooperative relations between our two countries.

Noting that the fraternal Egyptian people have waged arduous struggle for defending the national independence and the country's sovereignty and against the imperialists and Israeli aggressors, the speaker stressed: We will as always stand on the side of the Egyptian people and extend firm support and encouragement to their just struggle.

Legitimate Palestinian Rights

Mohamed Hassan Mohamed El Tohamy spoke next at the banquet.

He said he came to Korea to express, as special envoy of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, respect and reverence for President Kim Il Sung and extend thanks and greetings to the Korean people for their friendly and honorable stand manifested toward the Egyptian people. We have also come to Korea to discuss the future of mankind, the Middle East question in particular, he added.

He said that thanks to her great efforts the Democratic People's Republic of Korea holds a high position in the world.

Saying that the high position was provided by the inspiring leader President Kim Il Sung, the special envoy stressed: The President provided this position through his struggle and with his political theory and his new philosophy.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has become a school to which the world is looking up, he said, and continued: We respect and revere President Kim Il Sung and treasure the friendship with the Korean people.

Referring to the great victory won by the Egyptian people in the fight against the enemy in 1973, he said: We are waging a peaceful struggle by the method of political talks.

We don't think this peaceful struggle is weaker than the military struggle. We fight for peace in two directions.

The peace we demand is a peace based on the restoration of our rights.

Noting that His Excellency President Mohamed Anwar El Sadat boldly visited Jerusalem, the special envoy said: Jerusalem is our occupied land and we had talks for peace in Jerusalem as the strong, not as the weak.

Though we made self-sacrificing efforts for peace, the enemy maintained a stubborn stand.

We must restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. We must take back this land just as we retake our land.

Talks were held in Pyongyang on Feb. 8 between Vice-President Pak Sung Chul and the Egyptian special envoy Mohamed Hassan Mohamed El Tohamy.

At the talks the two sides informed each other of the situation in the respective countries and exchanged views on matters of common concern.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

The Egyptian special envoy left Pyongyang on Feb. 10.

(KCNA)

DPRK's Reunification Initiatives Receive Int'l Support

Democratic Lawyers Assn.

A meeting of the bureau of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers was held in Algiers between January 20 and 22, according to KCNA.

At the meeting delegates of many countries expressed firm support and solidarity with the Korean people's cause of national reunification.

An appeal on Korea was adopted at the meeting with the unanimous approval of the attendants.

The appeal called upon the governments, political parties and public organisations of all countries and the world people and lawyers who love peace to strengthen support and solidarity for the just and legitimate struggle of the Korean people for smashing the U.S. imperialists' manoeuvres to perpetuate the division of Korea, forcing the U.S. troops out of south Korea, achieving the independent and peaceful reunification of the country to establish the national sovereignty throughout the country and defending peace in the world.

Noting that Korea's division is the root cause of tension threatening peace in Asia, the appeal said:

The bureau affirms that whereas the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is exerting consistent efforts to achieve the reunification in total independence by a democratic and peaceful means, the south Korean authorities supported by the U.S. imperialists persistently oppose the reunification.

It affirms that contrary to President Carter's promises during his election campaign, the U.S. administration is increasing its armed forces and its military "aid" to south Korea for the "modernisation" of its puppet army and the expansion of its armaments.

The arguments on "simultaneous admission to the UN" of the north and the south of Korea or "cross recognition" evidently pursue no other object than dividing Korea into two indefinitely.

The question of Korea's reunification can be settled only by taking back the territory and people robbed by the imperialists and establishing the national sovereignty of the Korean people which no one can infringe upon.

Expressing the unanimous opinion of all the peaceloving and democratic forces in the world, the bureau of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers energetically denounces all the manoeuvres to create "two Koreas" by freezing the present division of Korea.

The bureau also reaffirms the imperative necessity to withdraw all U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from south Korea at once, abolish all evil laws infringing upon democracy and human rights in south Korea and immediately release all the arrested patriots.

It expresses full support to the three principles and five-point policy of national reunification formulated by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the four-point national salvation proposal.

People's Daily

Reportedly, the January 25th issue of "People's Daily" carried a commentator's article under the title "Resolutely Support the Korean People's Just Struggle."

The article says:

Eighteen Korean political parties and public organizations met in Pyongyang on January 25, 1977 and adopted a "letter to the political parties, public organizations and people of all strata in south Korea and compatriots overseas," advancing a four-point programme of national salvation.

It continues:

Facts have proved that the four-point programme of national salvation is just and reasonable and is of great importance in ending the division of Korea, eliminating the danger of war and effecting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

The division of Korea is entirely the result of U.S. imperialist aggression and interference. Last year, under the pressure of the world people, including the American people, and world public opinion, the U.S. Government made a gesture about its willingness to withdraw its ground troops along with nuclear weapons from south Korea in four or five years. Nevertheless, it continues to station its armed forces in south Korea and interfere with and obstruct the Korean people's cause of independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland. Backed and abetted by the United States, the Pak Jung Hi clique stubbornly pursues a policy of national split, intensifies the repression of the south Korean people and deliberately aggravates the tension in the Korean Peninsula.

Of late, the Pak Jung Hi clique, working hand in glove with the United States, planned to establish a "ROK-U.S. joint command" in the coming summer to make the United States stay on in south Korea so as to maintain its fascist rule. At the same time, it harped on the old tune of signing a "non-aggression pact" between the north and the south and "simultaneous entry into the United Nations" in an intensified effort to create "two Koreas" and perpetuate the division of Korea. However, reunification of Korea is a trend dictated by the will of the people and no force on earth can stop it.

Korea belongs to the Korean people.

No outside force has any right to intervene in the internal affairs of Korea. The United States must put an end to its occupation of south Korea and its intervention in Korea; it must implement the resolution on the Korean question adopted at the 30th Session of the UN General Assembly, dissolve the "UN forces command," withdraw all its armed forces from south Korea, and let the Korean people resolve the question of reunification of Korea by themselves.

China and Korea are neighbours closely related to each other as the lips and the teeth. The two peoples have always been comrades-in-arms sharing weal and woe. In the protracted revolutionary struggles, they have always encouraged and supported each other and fostered a great militant friendship cemented with blood. Under the leadership of the wise leader Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, the Chinese Government and people resolutely carry out Chairman Mao's revolutionary line on foreign affairs, uphold proletarian internationalism, and resolutely support the Korean people's just struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland and the four-point national salvation programme put forward by 18 Korean political parties and public organizations.

Meets Korean Press

Mohamed Hassan Mohamed El Tohamy, special envoy of the Egyptian President, met the press in Pyongyang on Feb. 9.

He said:

His Excellency our President regards respected and beloved President Kim Il Sung not only as the inspiring and most respected leader of the fraternal country but as his most intimate friend.

His Excellency our President entrusted me to meet respected and beloved President Kim Il Sung and convey our warmest greetings and respect to him and express the militant and official stand of the Egyptian people supporting the Korean people.

If the respected and beloved President comes to our Egypt any time, he will receive more enthusiastic welcome from us than any other state leaders.

The sentiments existing between the two leaders further inspire the excellent friendly relations existing between our two countries.

The stand of your country to our people, especially the stand the greatest President Kim Il Sung manifested to us in 1973 when we fought down the enemy, was a historic stand and this stand imbues us with a great confidence.

Heroic Korean airmen participated in the struggle to defend our territory and President Kim Il Sung strongly supported the struggle of our people at that time. This is an encouragement which we always remember.

The heroism displayed by the Korean pilots won the great admiration of the Egyptian people. It can be said that their bravery was a model demonstrating the mettle of fighting Korea, the valiant Korean people.

The excellent friendship and close relations forged between the two great leaders exert a great influence on further developing the friendship and cooperation existing between us and our two countries.

Here I assure you that Egypt will develop the friendly and cooperative relations forever and on the broadest scale with Democratic Korea on to a higher stage.

The development of this cooperation in accordance with the ideas taught by great President Kim Il Sung shows that this cooperation is cooperation of fraternal friendship and the best, most friendly and noblest of the cooperation existing between brothers in the world.

Saying that it was very beneficial to invite delegations of the two countries to visit each other and develop the exchange of various delegations on the broadest scale and in such a way as desired by the two countries, he went on:

We Egyptian people know a lot of things about the great President and heard much about him.

Saying with high pride that our friendly relations sealed in the struggle against imperialism can be developed on a higher stage, I take this opportunity to extend our support to your struggle.

We, together with you, will struggle against imperialism and for the consolidation of independence in the future, too, and this will develop into friendly relations between brothers.

We are also struggling against imperialism and for consolidating independence in our region.

When I had an audience with His Excellency respected and beloved Kim Il Sung, I told him about the political, military and peaceful developments in the Middle East and explained him the proposals of our side concerning them.

Of course, the stand for peace we desire in this region is based on independence and justice. I was very happy to convey this stand of ours to him, entrusted by President Anwar El Sadat.

We felt that respected and beloved President Kim Il Sung knew well the developments in our region as if he were in Cairo and were enduring the crisis with us.

Special envoy Mohamed Hassan Mohamed El Tohamy said that the Egyptian people followed the great successes made by the Korean people and the struggle waged by them for independence with great admiration from the bottom of their hearts and highly appraised them.

He stated:

Korea has made tremendous successes in various fields.

We highly estimate the excellent friendly relations between your country and our country and are proud of them.

We will make efforts to develop continuously such relations of friendship in the future.

(KCNA)

US Forces in S. Korea: Pullout Or Reinforcement

What is made clearer in Carter administration's Korea policy direction for fiscal 1979 is that it has no idea to give up south Korea, despite the planned withdrawal of U.S. ground troops.

Referring to the Korean situation in a "report on defense" submitted to the U.S. Congress on Feb. 2, Harold Brown, U.S. Defense Secretary, stated that U.S. air force in south Korea would be strengthened, powerful support given to Seoul and the capacity for redeployment of additional combat forces there maintained.

On the same day, George Brown, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a "white paper on defense" that powerful naval and air forces would be maintained in south Korea and Northeast Asia.

Meeting the press at the White House on Feb. 10, Cyrus Vance, U.S. State Secretary, said, "There should be no fear about the strength of America's commitment to the Republic of Korea under the mutual defense agreement which we signed many years ago."

There is no doubt that the U.S. intends to persist in the arms reinforcement and war preparations in south Korea under the signboard of troop withdrawal and further to maintain its grip over there as an important stronghold in the Far East.

U.S. President Carter said at the beginning of his administration that most of the 32,000 American ground troops in south Korea will be withdrawn over a four to five-year period.

Contrary to his announcement, the indication is that Washington aims to keep GIs in the region as ever. In fact, behind the planned withdrawal, more things are being shipped into south Korea than those withdrawn from there.

Fuel is added to such a worry by the recent revelation of U.S. News and World Report, Feb. 13: The president soon may quietly bury his plan to withdraw all American ground forces from south Korea. Instead, the White House is expected to leave brigade in south Korea, limiting the pullback to only one brigade.

In an attempt to justify the American military presence in the region, the U.S. is still bent on abusing the name of the "UN forces."

Recently presenting a "report on the situation" to the United Nations Security Council, Washington claimed that "UN Command in south Korea must continue until a new and more permanent agreement can be concluded to replace the existing armistice."

Washington alleged that the "UN Command" should be in south Korea because tension persists in Korea and the north-south dialogue has made very little progress.

None other than Washington is to be blamed for the circumstances. Among other things, the tension existing on the Korean Peninsula is entirely attributable to the U.S. "two-Korea" policy. While proposing the troop phaseout, the U.S. tries to keep the main forces in south Korea, pushing ahead with the arms reinforcement and war preparations by continuously bringing in new military equipment, weapons and ammunition.

Encouraged by the U.S., the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique are frantically staging war exercises and trying to keep the U.S. troops there and turn south Korea into a permanent military base of the U.S.

This renders the situation strained and increases a danger of war in Korea, posing a grave obstacle to the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and a serious menace to peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

The U.S. should totally and immediately withdraw its troops, nuclear weapons and all other weapons from south Korea and take its hands off Korea in accordance with the 30th UNGA resolution.

A scene of the U.S.-south Korea joint maneuvers conducted in December last year: the American military presence, a constant source of the tension in the Korean Peninsula

Tass on Militarization of S. Korean Economy

A Tass report on February 3 exposed the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique's militarisation of the economy and its dependence on foreign capital. South Korea which has induced foreign "loans" is deep in debts from many years ago, it said.

Noting that today south Korea is in the grip of an economic crisis, it went on:

The crisis is being further aggravated due to the stepped-up militarisation and dependence on foreign capital.

This year south Korea's military expenses amount to more than 35 per cent of its "budgetary" expenditures.

To spend more money for military purposes, the Seoul "regime" increases the tax imposition. The total amount of taxes to be collected this year is more than 3,000,000 million won.

This is an increase of over 30 per cent above the figure of 1977.

Pointing out that the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique is leaving south Korea to the tender mercy of the rapacious foreign monopolies, it said:

The Seoul "regime" says that it would continue to give preference to foreign capital.

KOREA FOCUS

Dangerous 'Compensatory Measures' of Carter Administration

The Carter Administration plans to give the Pak Jung Hi junta a vast quantity of military assistance as "compensatory measures" for the phaseout of U.S. ground combat troops from south Korea. It is being stressed as necessary for the maintenance of the present military balance on the Korean Peninsula.

Since 1950 the United States has already provided large amounts of military aid for the improvement of the south Korean armed forces. The result is that "Republic of Korea ground forces—the fifth largest army in the world—outnumber those of north Korea" ("Korea and U.S. Policy in Asia," *The Defence Monitor*, January, 1976).

Nevertheless, the Carter Administration in its "Report on Korea" submitted to the Congress last December asked for approval of its plan to transfer at no cost to south Korea $800 million worth of weapons in the inventory of American forces in south Korea and to continue to provide foreign military sales credits to the south Koreans. Such aid, the Americans claimed, were needed to offset the effects of the pullout of U.S. forces on the military balance.

According to the above-mentioned report, equipment deliveries from the United States during last year include antitank missiles, some AH-1J helicopters, F-4-E, F-5, A-37 and C-123 aircraft and additional destroyers. The south Koreans procured a Nike-Hercules battalion and are reportedly in the process of buying an Honest John battalion.

In August last year the American Congress approved the delivery to the Pak Jung Hi junta 18 F-4 E's, 6 C-130 cargo planes, and 14 F-5 E's. Military observers believe that the newly-approved delivery would mean a 50 per cent increase in the number of F-4 E's, mainstay fighters of the puppet air force.

Reports said that recently 12 F-4 E's were added to the 60 already deployed in south Korea, with 8 F-15 Eagles being stationed there temporarily. F-111s are said to be sent there soon.

Unconfirmed reports say that Sergeant surface-to-surface missiles of the 4th Missile Command in south Korea are among weapons to be transferred to the south Koreans and add that far more powerful Lance ground-to-ground missiles will eventually replace them. At present there are deployed in south Korea 2 Sergeant missiles, 4 Honest John missiles, 144 Nike-Hercules missiles and 120 Hawk missiles.

In the meantime, the war industry has been developed on a large scale by the Pak Jung Hi junta to meet what it called the "needs of self-reliant defense." The $65 billion "plan for the modernization" of the puppet troops has been pushed ahead since 1971. Overlapping it, the $5 billion "force improvement plan" was started in 1976. The Carter Administration promised puppet foreign minister Pak Tong Jin to give $3.5 billion in assistance to finance that effort. There is no doubt that the "fourth five-year economic plan" featuring the expansion of heavy chemical industries has a strategic significance in the projected military buildup. It is no accident that the puppet dictator is telling that the south Koreans would be mistproducing all types of weapons by 1982 except for nuclear arms and combat craft.

These facts graphically bespeak that the "compensatory measures" being taken by the Carter Administration are far from aimed at preserving the military balance on the Korean Peninsula but are offensive enough to tip it to the disadvantage of the northern side. Nuclear attack exercises and landing operations currently being executed in American military bases in Japan omen the aggravation of the situation on the Korean Peninsula. "Presidential Review Memorandum No. 10" and the "1979 Report on Defence" show that the Carter Administration has reached an extremely dangerous stage in its "policy of strength."

Targets of 2nd Seven-Year Plan

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has set forth the Second Seven-Year Plan (1978-1984). This new long-term plan is aimed at producing 56,000-60,000 million kwh of electricity, 70-80 million tons of coal, 7.4-8 million tons of steel, one million tons of nonferrous metals, 5 million tons of engineering products, 5 million tons of chemical fertilizers, 12-13 million tons of cement, 3.5 million tons of aquatic products, and 10 million tons of grain; and reclaim 100,000 *chongbo* of tideland. To attain this goal, vigorous strides are being made in various fields. Follow the reports from the DPRK.

Electricity

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will reach the target of 56,000-60,000 million kwh of electricity during the Second Seven-Year Plan period to be one of the most advanced countries in per capita electricity output.

In this period the capacities of the existing thermal power plants will be increased and new large-scale thermal power plants be built in various places with rich coal deposits. Besides, thermal power stations fed mainly with low-calorie coal which abounds in local areas will be built in major local cities for the purpose of heating and many factory thermal power stations using surplus and waste heat from the metal, chemical, building-materials and light industrial factories be constructed.

As for the construction of hydro-power stations, the building of the Taedong-gang, Wiwon and Huichon

No. 2 power stations now under way should be accelerated and completed at an early date and new large-scale hydro-power stations be constructed at suitable points on many rivers. The construction of many medium and small scale power stations will be undertaken through a mass movement.

As new industrial centres come into being, extra-high voltage transmission lines will be laid in many areas to increase the capacity of national power distribution.

The power industry will make a big leap forward along the road of the Juche-orientation, modernisation and scientification of the national economy and attain the target of electricity during the new long-term plan period. Thus the country will become a powerful industrial state with a high level of electrification.

Coal Industry

The coal industry will make rapid progress during the Second Seven-Year Plan. The nation's coal production will reach 70 million-80 million tons in 1984.

During the new long-term plan large coal mines will be expanded and the construction of new ones be sped up to markedly increase the per mine and per pit coal output and medium- and small-scale coal mines developed on a large scale.

During this period efforts will be bent on conducting the prospecting for the future purposes and the prospecting for the present in a big way and the prospecting of the depths and the surrounding areas intensified to secure sufficient coal cutting faces.

High-speed tunnelling will be widely applied at the coal mines to keep tunnelling definitely ahead of coal production and pit construction sped up to modernize and concrete more pits.

This period will witness the wide introduction of modern mining equipment suited to the actual conditions of the coal mines. Large-size, modern and high-speed machines will be applied to effect the comprehensive mechanization and automation there.

Building Materials

The building materials industry will advance at an accelerated tempo in keeping with the development of other domains of the national economy in the period of the Second Seven-Year Plan.

At the end of the plan the output of cement will reach 12-13 million tons.

This period will witness a marked growth of the output of various building materials, such as cement, plate glass, resinous building materials, metal fittings, chemical building materials, building tiles, sanitary wares and illuminating devices.

Plate glass production will also be increased in this period. To this end, the construction of the glass rolling shop at the Nampo Glass Factory and of the small plate glass factories in different provinces will be brought to completion and a new plate glass factory with a capacity of 10 million square metres built respectively in eastern and western regions.

The production of various resinous building materials will be largely expanded.

Local building materials production bases will be further consolidated, along with central building materials production bases, in the period of the Second Seven-Year Plan.

Every province will build up more solidly its own factories producing pipes, wires, sanitary wares and fittings, and provinces, cities and counties will make large quantities of various building materials and fittings for their own use.

The production of magnesia clinker, a high-quality refractory material, will be increased considerably. This will be achieved by bringing to an early completion the expansion work on the Tanchon Magnesia Factory and building a large base for the production of magnesia clinker.

Nonferrous Metals

Korea will attain the target of one million tons of nonferrous metals during the Second Seven-Year Plan.

The Second Seven-Year Plan projects will be undertaken in a bold way. The country will concentrate efforts on the development of promising mines in Tanchon area with great deposits, while reconstructing and expanding the existing mines and accelerating the development of large mines and medium and small mines in new areas.

In particular, the stopes will be expanded on a large scale and the construction of large-scale No. 3 Ore Dressing Plant pushed ahead at the Komdok Mine. And the second-stage project for further lengthening the large-scale, long-distance belt conveyor extending 6 kilometres from the pit to the ore dressing plant will be completed within this year.

While maximizing the capacities of the existing smelteries through their readjustment and reinforcement, the country will build more modern ones and light metal factories in different parts in this period so as to increase the variety of nonferrous rolled goods and develop their processing.

The DPRK will also largely increase the output of aluminium with the use of domestic raw materials and expand the production of rare and pure metals to meet the demands of the fast-developing electronic and weak-current industries.

Machinery

In the Second Seven-Year Plan period the annual production of engineering products will reach 5 million tons.

In 1984 the output of machine tools will rise to 50,000 and the production of large capacity power generating equipment, heavy-duty lorries, and various kinds of large-size machines needed for the mining industry and grand nature-remaking will grow sharply and complete sets of equipment will be produced for new modern factories and enterprises.

Chemical Industry

The DPRK will attain the target of 5 million tons of chemical fertilizers in 1984, the last year of the Second Seven-Year Plan.

Then, the application of chemical fertilizers per *chongbo* of farmland will exceed 2 tons and the country will be one of the most advanced countries in the world in the application of chemical fertilizers.

During the Second Seven-Year Plan period chemical industry will reach a higher level. In this period the production of chemical fertilizers will show a 1.6-fold increase, agricultural chemicals 2-fold, chemical fibres 1.8-fold and plastics 2-fold.

The existing chemical fertilizer factories will be further modernized and their production capacity raised and, at the same time, a new phosphorous fertilizer producing base will be built and the potash fertilizer industry fed with domestic raw materials created.

Besides, more agricultural chemicals factories will be built to satisfy ourselves a demand for various agricultural chemicals.

And the existing chemical fibre and plastics producing bases will be expanded, and new plastics factories constructed for increasing the output of chemical fibres and plastics. A large number of small and medium chemical plants will be built to produce a greater quantity of various chemical goods needed for light industry.

In the new long-term plan period a solid base for the synthetic rubber industry relying on their own raw materials will be built, the acid, alkali and carbide industries further developed and the output of salt essential for making soda rapidly increased.

The output of medicaments and medical appliances will also grow in this period.

Land Reclamation

One hundred and thousand *chongbo* (one *chongbo* is approximately one hectare) of tidal marshes will be turned into arable land in the country through extensive tideland reclamation projects in the new long-term plan period.

A large area of paddy fields, thousands of *chongbo* of reed fields, salterns and fish breeding grounds have been built in tidal marshes of the western coast extending 600 kilometers from the estuary of the River Amnok-gang to the estuary of the River Ryesong-gang.

The sea around Tasa-do Island of North Pyongan Province in the northwestern tip has been turned into vast reed fields and modern dwelling houses have been built there. A socialist rural community good to live in has appeared there.

Forty kilometer long dikes have been built along the coast of Onchon, Chungsan, Pyongwon and Sukchon counties, South Pyongan Province. Thus many new villages have made their appearance and big cooperative farms with more than 1,000 *chongbo* of farmland each have been built, which increase grain output year by year.

There are vast tidal marshes on the western coast because it is full of indentations, a gap between ebb and flow is big, and many rivers empty into the West Sea.

Nearly 300,000 *chongbo* of tidal marshes are reclaimable on the western coast.

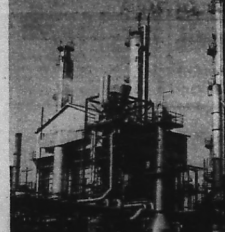


Photo shows a part of the modernly-equipped Youth Chemical Complex.

30 Years of Korean People's Army

Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK) February 8 carries an editorial headlined "The Korean People's Army, the Glorious Revolutionary Armed Forces of Our Party" on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the strengthening and development of the revolutionary armed forces of our people into regular armed forces by President Kim Il Sung (February 8, 1948).

The editorial says:

The Korean People's Army, the regular revolutionary armed forces of our people, was founded in 1948. But our people had their true revolutionary armed forces from the time when the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung founded the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

The founding of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung on April 25, 1932, in the grimmest days of the Japanese imperialist rule was a revolutionary event which brought about a new turn in our revolutionary struggle. With the founding of the first revolutionary people's armed force of Juche type in our country the age-old desire of our people to have their true revolutionary army was brilliantly realized and the glorious history of our genuine revolutionary armed forces began from that time.

The founding of the Korean People's Army by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung after liberation was the strengthening and development of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army into regular revolutionary armed forces.

Therefore, the birthday of the Korean People's Army, the direct successor to the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, is April 25, 1932.

The strengthening and development of the Korean People's Army into regular armed forces 30 years ago marked a new turn in the building of our people's revolutionary armed forces.

The whole course traversed by the Korean People's Army since its strengthening and development into regular armed forces is a glorious course of firmly equipping the whole army with the great Juche idea and of its strengthening and development into invincible combat ranks and a history of the proud struggle for firmly defending the independence of the country and the sovereignty of the nation and dependably safeguarding the cause of socialist and communist construction with boundless loyalty to the Party and revolution.

The Korean People's Army is the army of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the army of the glorious Party, the genuine revolutionary army which struggles to defend and successfully realize the revolutionary cause started by the great leader, taking the great Juche idea as the firm guiding compass.

The Korean People's Army, strengthened and developed into regular revolutionary armed forces under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, has traversed a militant path replete with victory and glory and performed immortal exploits and heroic feats for the fatherland and the nation, the editorial says, and goes on:

Thanks to the outstanding and tested leadership and deep care of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung our People's Army has grown and strengthened into one-hundred-hundred revolutionary armed forces further tempered politically and ideologically, physically and in military technique.

As there is this steel-like detachment, our people's cause of socialist construction and the security of the fatherland are reliably guaranteed.

Due to the divisive and belligerent manoeuvres of the domestic and foreign splittists, the danger of permanent national split is growing and the situation is being further aggravated in our country, the editorial says. It continues:

This gravely jeopardizes peace in Korea and the cause of her peaceful reunification.

To remedy the divided country by the efforts of our people themselves in a peaceful way on a democratic principle without any outside interference—this is the invariable stand and policy of our Party and the Government of our Republic.

Our people will as ever bend all their efforts to smash the "two Koreas" plot of the splittists and their war manoeuvres and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

In conclusion the editorial stresses: ever-victorious are our people and People's Army who are struggling for a just cause under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung.

P'yang Acrobatic Troupe Tours Europe

Belgium

The P'yongyang Acrobatic Troupe of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave successful performances in Belgium from January 12 to 22 amid warm welcome and high acclamation of her people following its performance tour of France, according to a report.

The Brussels Radio Diffusion-Television screened the documentary film of the P'yongyang "Acrobatics" to satisfy the fervent wishes of Belgians to see the fascinating acrobatics of Juche Korea even before its arrival. A meeting was held to welcome the visit of the P'yongyang Acrobatic Troupe to Belgium.

The Korean acrobats gave performances on the Belgian Royal Acrobatic Theatre. The flags of the DPRK and the Kingdom of Belgium were hanging side by side there.

Invited to the guest performance given on January 13 were Claude Renard, Vice-Chairman of the Communist Party of Belgium who is Member of the Political Bureau of its Central Committee, Vaden Boeynants, Minister for Brussels of the Kingdom of Belgium, and other political and public figures and parliamentarians of the country and diplomatic envoys of various countries in Brussels.

The theatre drew capacity spectators every evening. When the curtain rose and our artists appeared on the stage amid the solemn playing of the "Song of General Kim Il Sung", the spectators warmly welcomed them with enthusiastic cheers and thunderous applause.

The Belgian Association for the Dissemination of Culture and Art and the Chinese Embassy in Brussels presented baskets of flowers to the Korean acrobats congratulating them on their successful performance.

Yugoslavia

The P'yongyang Acrobatic Troupe arrived in Belgrade on January 28, according to a report.

The P'yongyang Acrobatic Troupe was cordially met at the airport by the First Deputy Chairman of the Federal Committee of Science and Culture of Yugoslavia, the First Deputy Director of the Federal General Bureau of International Scientific, Educational, Cultural and Technological Cooperation and other personages concerned and artists. Yugoslav artists presented our artists with bunches of fragrant flowers.

The Abrasevic Art Troupe of Beograd which visited the DPRK last year arranged a friendship party on the evening of January 28 in welcome of the visit of the P'yongyang Acrobatic Troupe to Yugoslavia.

Invited there were the entire members of the P'yongyang Acrobatic Troupe.

On hand were the First Deputy Chairman of the Federal Information Committee of Yugoslavia, the First Deputy Director of the Federal General Bureau of International Scientific, Educational, Cultural and Technological Cooperation and the Chairman of the Abrasevic Association of Culture and Art.

P'yang Art Troupe Arrives In Rangoon

The P'yongyang Art Troupe of the DPRK headed by Kim Gwang Ho arrived in Rangoon on the afternoon of January 31 in the first leg of its performance tour of Southeast Asian countries, according to a report.

The art troupe was cordially met at the airport by the Director of the Art Department and the Director of the Historical Relics Department of the Ministry of Culture, the Assistant Director of the Cultural Relations Department of the Foreign Ministry and other personages concerned.

Present at the airport were staff members of the DPRK Embassy in Rangoon.

The P'yongyang Art Troupe stopped over in Peking and Kunming on its way to Burma.

At the Peking airport the P'yongyang Art Troupe was met by a Vice-President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, a Vice-Director of the Asian Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other personages concerned, staff members of the DPRK Embassy and diplomatic envoys of Burma and other countries in Peking.

The P'yongyang Art Troupe left P'yongyang by special plane on the morning of January 31 for a visit to Southeast Asian countries.

Korean Women Paddlers Team Placed First in Int'l Game

The women's table-tennis team of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea came first in the women's doubles at the Wales Open Table-Tennis Championships held in Cardiff, Wales, Britain, according to a report.

The championships which opened on February 3 were participated in by a large number of table-tennis players of the DPRK, China, Britain, Canada, Belgium, Luxembourg and other countries of the world.

The Korean girl players won the first doubles with the Jersey team of Britain 3:0 and the next match with the Luxembourg team 3:0.

The Korean girl players beat the Chinese team 2 three: one in the semifinal.

In the team final Pak Yong Ok - Li Song Suk of the DPRK team played with Chang Li - Li Shu-ying of the Chinese team 1 who defeated the Turkish team and England team.

The Korean players beat the Chinese players three:one to be placed first in the championships.

Korean Women Made Great Socialist Stride

Follows the article run in the Dec. 21, 1977 issue of the Guardian, a U.S. weekly newspaper, written by its general manager Frances M. Beal who visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea last year to attend the International Seminar on the Juche Idea held between Sep. 14 and 17.

One of the most impressive aspects of life in the DPRK is the role of women.

Women constitute 48% of the national work force; 33% of government officials from the Supreme People's Assembly to local councils, and 25% of the technicians and specialists. While proud of this accomplishment, they are quick to point out that the goal is 50% female participation in all aspects of life.

Li Su Wol, vice president of the Korean Democratic Women's Union (KDWU), spoke to the Guardian of the Party's high priority on the development of women.

"The progress made by women in my country can be attributed to the great concern of President Kim Il Sung and the Korean Workers' Party," she stated. "Our strategy has been 2-fold: the ideological and cultural development of women on the one hand and massive state intervention to socialize those tasks traditionally consigned to women like child rearing and housework."

It is notable that women in the DPRK are not drawn into society because of a shortage of workers, but rather "to revolutionize and working-classize the women through their public lives."

FACILITIES FOR WOMEN

To guarantee this, the DPRK has erected a vast array of daycare facilities throughout the nation. This is complemented by accessible laundries and shopping centers, all designed to relieve women from the heavy burden of household tasks.

"We are expanding our processed food production," Li explained, "to free women from hours of work in preparing meals. In addition, the production of household utensils and other devices to relieve the burden of housework has been greatly improved.

"While the state has provided the material basis for the emancipation of women," she continued, "our main work is to arm women with revolutionary ideas, to strengthen communist consciousness and to insure that women lead an active public life."

IN LIGHT INDUSTRY

Most women are concentrated in the light industry. "An objective of the technical revolution is to eliminate all arduous labor," Li explained, "but until that is possible, we believe that women should be assigned to the less burdensome work, while being given every opportunity to advance ideologically, technically and culturally."

The Pyongyang Textile Combine is illustrative of the party's policies in practice. This complex embraces a number of systems—spinning, cotton and silk weaving, dyeing and printing. The workers here are mostly women, including managers and technicians.

Apartment buildings have been constructed nearby so that it is easy for the women to get back and forth. The factory compound also includes a variety of services and welfare establishments like shopping facilities and a factory hospital. Like every other workplace where the workers are mainly female, it has a nursery and kindergarten. Children are dropped off in the morning and picked up after work. Those who are nursing take time off to feed their children during the day. A unique innovation here is the shopping service. Women can leave a list in the morning and pick up their purchases at night, eliminating the necessity to hurry to a store after work to buy food for dinner.

The Pyongyang Textile Combine also has a factory college on its premises, with a comprehensive system of part-time study and other educational networks. The women take various training courses to become engineers or technicians. In addition, they are encouraged to study to enhance their general educational level. Courses in revolutionary subjects are taught in line with advancing the political consciousness of women.

Another priority of the women's union is to insure the development of women cadres. To develop technicians, specialists and leaders in all fields, young women are encouraged to delay marriage. In this manner, they have the opportunity to expand their intellectual and theoretical knowledge while at the same time continuing practical activity and increasing their participation in organizational and political affairs.

Free medical care and welfare benefits which are provided to all citizens have dramatically changed the lives of women. Before liberation, death in childbirth was so common that preparations for a woman's funeral were made when she reached the end of her pregnancy.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

During my stay in the DPRK, I witnessed women engaged in a great variety of social activities. They have been given a great deal of responsibility and have made great strides in overcoming centuries of colonial and class oppression. The days are gone forever when the Korean woman was little more than an animal whose life was characterized by humiliation and degradation.

Women in the DPRK are very conscious of the great changes wrought by the Korean revolution. It makes it all the more difficult to shake the wretched conditions faced by their sisters in the southern part of the peninsula.

Reunification of the country is a major political goal of the Women's Union. To achieve this goal, they work to consolidate the socialist revolution in the North, help to strengthen the revolutionary forces in the South and on an international level, work to further expand solidarity with progressive women in the world.

"Reunification of the fatherland is the ardent desire of our women," Li emphasized. "We are outraged when we read that children (in the South) are sold to the U.S. and in Europe. It is Pak Jung Hi's (president of South Korea) decadent regime that forces women into prostitution for visiting foreigners and makes them work like slaves in foreign-controlled factories to enrich the imperialists."

INCREDIBLE ADVANCES MADE

Following the Marxist strategy of emancipating women by drawing them into public life and engaging them in activities outside the home, the Korean woman has made incredible advances. Lenin's concept of teaching women "to run the state" has received careful attention and has been implemented to an impressive degree. Much of this has been made possible because the DPRK has become an industrial socialist state that can provide a high standard of living to its citizens.

Most important, however, is the party's concentration on the revolutionization and proletarianization of women as the general strategy for the liberation of women.

The massive efforts by the state to provide the institutional and ideological means to incorporate women into the work force and provide them with the material necessities to become full participating members of society present a model that women in the country would do well to study carefully.

News in Brief

Jan. 17

* Kim Yong Su, newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Republic of Liberia, presented credentials to William Richard Tolbert, President of the Republic of Liberia.

Jan. 28

* A delegation of the League of Socialist Working Youth of the DPRK headed by Kim Chang Ryong left Pyongyang by plane for a visit to Iraq.

Jan. 31

* The Korea-Romania Friendship Association was awarded the medal of jubilee on centenary of the independence of Romanian State for its contribution to the development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the Korean people and the Romanian people.

* An agreement on mutual cooperation in the fields of radio and television between the Central Broadcasting Committee of the DPRK and the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and the Pakistan Television Corporation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was signed in Islamabad.

Feb. 1

* The Central People's Committee of the DPRK issued an decree on appointing Li Ik Hong as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the DPRK to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

Feb. 3

* A government trade delegation of the Polish People's Republic headed by Tadeusz Nestorowicz, Vice-Minister of External Trade and Marine Economy of the Polish People's Republic, arrived in Pyongyang by train.

Feb. 7

* A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Kim Yong Nam, Alternate Member of the Political Committee, and Secretary, of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, left Pyongyang by special plane to visit Yugoslavia upon the invitation of the Presidency of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.

* A delegation of the Polish travel office "Orbis" headed by its Vice-Director Andrzej Szuldrzynski arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

(KCNA)

S. Korea, U.S. Continue in Dilemma

Pak Tong Son, south Korean influence peddler, is expected to attend a closed-door hearing of the U.S. Congress on Feb. 21, as a key figure in Pak Jung Hi's influence-peddling operations aimed at U.S. lawmakers. This indicates that Pak Jung Hi and Carter intend to put an end to the bribery case which is now aggravating relations between south Korea and the U.S.

At a time when the U.S. people are increasing complaints about the administration after the Vietnam War and the Watergate scandal, the U.S. Congress strongly demands that the Carter administration help a thorough Congress probe into the pay-off case by taking proper steps to enable the Congress to obtain testimonies not only from Pak Tong Son but also from other south Korean lobbyists, including Kim Dong Jo, presently secretary to the president and former ambassador to the U.S., and Ham Byong Chun, former ambassador to the U.N.

Progressive people all over the world were shocked by Pak's influence-buying operations aimed at U.S. Congressmen.

Pak to Appear at Secret Hearing

The "KCIA's" bribery case, called "Koreagate," has driven a wedge in the relations between south Korea and the U.S., causing a sensation wider than the Carter administration anticipated.

The Pak Jung Hi junta and the Carter administration have continued close contacts with each other since the latter half of last year in order to discuss effective steps to put an end to the "Koreagate" scandal.

But the differences of opinion between south Korea and the U.S. had prevented them from reaching "settlement" on the scandal, despite active intervention by the Japanese government: The Seoul side wanted the pay-off scandal to be "politically settled" in the same way as the "Kim Dae Jung kidnap case" was done while the Washington side intended to utilize the case so as to restore its prestige.

But the two sides suddenly reached agreement on steps to settle the "Koreagate", after the frequent contacts at the end of last year. Included in the reasons why they arrived at understanding are: (1) The two sides regarded it as an unfavourable condition in their election campaigns to leave the "Koreagate" unsettled until the "president-i-" election in south Korea and the congressional election in the U.S.

(2) The "Koreagate" makes it difficult for a bill on aid to south Korea to be passed through Congress, which would be able to ratify such a bill for south Korea with the bribery case unsettled. This would prevent Carter from implementing one of his election campaign pledges, with drawal of the U.S. troops from south Korea.

Withdrawal of Pak's Prosecution

At the beginning of the New Year, the south Korean and U.S. justice departments signed a "mutual prosecution assistance agreement." The U.S. justice department and the south Korean authorities jointly questioned Pak Tong Son for 17 days after Jan. 13 who handed a "memorandum of agreement" to the U.S. side.

Among the points agreed upon at the negotiations are: (1) to question Pak Tong Son in Seoul; (2) to make Pak Tong Son testify before a U.S. court on the irregularities of U.S. congressmen and high-ranking officials; (3) to confine Pak Tong Son's testimony within limits of his testimony made in Seoul and within his dirty connections with congressmen and high-ranking officials, and to exclude his connections with the Pak Jung Hi junta and third countries from his testimony; (4) to withdraw his prosecution and exempt his responsibility in exchange for Pak's testimony at the court.

Pak Tong Son's testimony at the U.S. court is designed to keep the prestige of the Carter's administration and to help the Pak Jung Hi junta extricate itself from a tight corner. The south Korean authorities are scheming to prevent Pak Tong Son's betrayal in the court, threatening that his prosperity in Seoul will be confiscated if he speaks against Pak Jung Hi in the U.S. court. This shows clearly how much the south Korean authorities fear Pak Tong Son's testimony.

Kim Dong Jo's Questioning Demanded

O'Neil (right) announces a public summon of Pak Tong Son to the House Ethics Committee; Kim Yong Shik (center), south Korean puppet ambassador to the U.S. and John J. Flynt (left), committee chairman; Pak Tong Son (at bottom right)

The south Korean and the U.S. justice departments are leaving no stones unturned to deceive the world public, saying that the number of U.S. high-ranking officials and congressmen involved in the "KCIA's" influence-peddling operations in the U.S. is not so large as is alleged and that there are few bribe-takers among the present officials. However, this is not true.

The U.S. Congress strongly urged the Pak Jung Hi junta to send Pak Tong Sun and high-ranking officials including Kim Dong Jo and Ham Byong Chun to the U.S. who were active in the pay-off operation to the U.S., in order to make them testify before the U.S. Congress, for the fear of increased popular complaints about the U.S. politics. In case the Seoul side refuses this request, the U.S. Congress threatens to forgo deliberations on a bill for aid to south Korea.

The U.S. public strongly demand that the high-ranking peddlers of the "KCIA" including Kim Dong Jo and Ham Byong Chun as they think that the influence-peddling operations were conducted under the personal direction of Pak Jung Hi.

The Pak Jung Hi junta and the Carter administration reluctantly accepted the Congress request for Pak Tong Son's testimony in the Congress under pressure of the Congress and the public. Nevertheless, the junta refuses to permit Kim Dong Jo to testify in the U.S., calling it an illegal measure against international practices.

Special counsel Leon Jaworski of the House Ethics Committee seriously criticized the administration and the Seoul "regime", demanding Kim Dong Jo and other key figures testify before the Congress.

The House Ethics Committee predicts that a few present officials will be prosecuted and over 20 politicians will be charged with violation of congressional ethics. Pak Tong Son is expected to testify only in the House Ethics Committee.

Obviously, a thorough probe into the "KCIA's" bribery case requires testimonies before the U.S. Congress by Pak Tong Son, Kim Dong Jo and other key figures. A thorough probe into the "KCIA's" pay-off scandal is expected to dispel the people's distrust to the administration.

The Pak Jung Hi junta and the Carter administration are making efforts to shirk their responsibilities for the "KCIA's" pay-off to U.S. lawmakers.

S. Korea-Japan Fusion Seen Disclosed

The controversially high price of subway cars exported by Japan to south Korea was the result of an estimate made by the Japan Railway Technical Service (JRTS) of Tokyo.

The unusually high price has been taken up in a recent committee session in the Diet and four major Japanese trading firms (Mitsubishi Corp., Marubeni Corp., Mitsui & Co., and Nissho-Iwai Co.) concerned have been accused of questionable dealings.

The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund and the south Korean authorities agreed on a price of ¥8,416 million for 186 cars in talks in 1972.

The price, however, was later increased by about ¥3,400 million to ¥11,844 million.

This price increase, gave the four trading firms more than ¥1,000 million profit, despite the ¥700 million used to facilitate business maneuvering in south Korea, it is believed.

While the talks on the price were going on, the south Korean side made a contract with the JRTS as a consultant for the subway car trade deal in June, 1972.

A JRTS mission sent to Seoul presented an unofficial estimate of ¥5,880,000 per car in October, of that year.

The south Koreans, however, claimed that this was too expensive as it was 24 percent higher than the price mentioned by the Japanese governmental mission in May, 1971.

That mission presented a price of ¥47,500,000 per car.

The south Koreans insisted on importing the subway cars for this price.

The price was finally concluded at ¥58,790,000 to ¥58,620,000 per car in May, 1973, which was the same as the estimate by the JRTS.

It is suspected that the four major trading firms, which are also members of the JRTS together with the railway car makers, pressed for the higher price through the JRTS.

S. Korean Deal Discussed at Diet

Officials of government agencies involved in the Seoul subway coach export affair failed to give clear answers to various suspicions raised by an opposition Dietman in the Lower House Budget Committee on Feb. 8.

Oide Shun, a Japan Socialist Party Dietman, alleged that Takasugi Shinichi, then the president of the governmental Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), which made a huge

Coaches are supposed to be sent to Seoul subway

yen loan for the Seoul subway project, had distributed a paper emphasizing that the construction of the subway system was in "the national interests of Japan and the Republic of Korea," after his trip to Seoul in October, 1970.

Showing related secret documents obtained from sources in Mitsubishi Corp., Oide charged that the Japanese trading firm put pressure on the association to inflate the price so that it would get money for political maneuvers. Mitsubishi was one of the four trading houses which jointly won a bidding for the 186 coaches for the Seoul project.

Foreign Minister and other government officials were at a loss for replies and promised to make detailed inquiries.

Oide also said that, among the Japanese rolling stock manufacturers involved in the transaction, only Hitachi, Ltd. made a profit from the deal and that there were discrepancies in its explanations concerning the prices of its products.

Ito Eiji, chief of the Justice Ministry's Criminal Affairs Bureau, disclosed for the first time that the authorities has a keen interest in the case.

Japan Gov't Urged For Total Probe

A group announced on Feb. 3 that it will press for a full public disclosure of alleged improprieties involving the sale of subway cars and surface train coaches to south Korea.

The announcement came at a press conference held at the Diet Building called by the "Japan-South Korean Solidarity Liaison Council", a group headed by political affairs critic, Aochi Shin. The statemen called on the government to continue investigations into allegations that some money involved in the ¥9.8 billion sale of rolling stock found its way into the hands of south Korean politicians and pro-Seoul Japanese politicians to buy their lobbying efforts for the deal.

Four trading firms which handled the sale have come under fire in the influence-buying scandal. They are Mitsubishi Corp., Marubeni Corp., Mitsui & Co., and Nissho-Iwai Co. In addition, the manufacturer of the rolling stock, Hitachi Ltd., has been accused of charging south Korea excessively for the 186 subway cars and surface coaches, with speculation high that some ¥700 million in unaccounted-for funds were used to pad the pockets of south Korean lobbyists.

The signatures of Makieda Motofumi, chairman of the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan (Sohyo) along with the names of 15 other influential figures appeared on the statement calling for a complete public airing of the four trading firms' role in the matter.

The group also contended in the press statement that part of a government loan extended to south Korea to help finance the rolling stock purchase was put to influence-buying purposes.

They further stressed that both Japanese and south Korean politicians had profited at the expense of the south Korean people.

Rightwingers' Raid on Hamamatsu Korean School

Japan Police Must Sternly Punish Criminals

Japan Rightwingers' Plot to Blast Korean School

On the night of Feb. 2, a Japanese hooligan turned on the gas in the kitchen of Hamamatsu Korean Middle and Primary School in Shizuoka Prefecture, in an attempt to blast the school building when he had intruded himself into it in order to take away a portrait of President Kim Il Sung of the DPRK from the auditorium and Korean textbooks.

The criminal was a right-winger by the name of Oka Shigenobu, a member of the Japanese right-wing group "Yosuisha" in Hamamatsu City.

Oka was caught by two teachers who were guarding the school, and gave himself up to the police on Feb. 6.

If the teachers had failed to discover it in time and if the gas had been lighted the next morning after school began, a terrible disaster would have occurred.

Between November 20 and December 21 last year, members of the Oka-led "Yosuisha" repeatedly raided and damaged the school and the office of the Seibu chapter of Shizuoka prefectural headquarters of Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan), shouting: "Korean school and Chongryun, get away." "The school shall be exploded by a bomb."

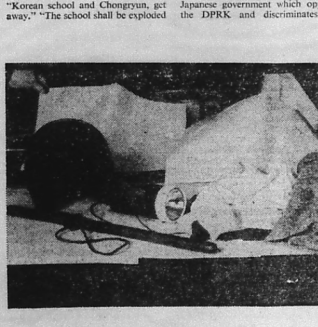
It is worth remembering that Oka is a notorious right-winger who was chief secretary of the ultra-right-wing group "Kikusui Youth League" in Tokyo in 1976. He had been slandering Chongryun, hatching plots to blow up the school and the chapter office building in a planned way since he moved to Hamamatsu City in the beginning of last year.

On Dec. 28 last year, Li Gyon Ryol, principal of the school, took legal proceeding against Oka whom the principal charged with making a raid on the Hamamatsu Korean school.

On the day following the Korean school blast attempt, Li Jin U, president of the Seibu chapter, and Li Gyon Ryol called at Hamamatsu Central Police Office, urging them to punish the offenders severely and to take proper steps to prevent recurrence of such a raid. Honest-minded Japanese people, including Kobayashi Giko, Socialist member of the Hamamatsu Municipal Assembly, protested against the Japanese Police Agency after they gave a press conference.

Oka's arrest does not mean that the case has been settled, as the Japanese police authorities are trying to conceal the truth about the case.

Obviously, it is due to the Japanese government's hostile policy towards the DPRK that right-wing groups are encouraged to make raids on the pro-Pyongyang Korean communities. Raids on Koreans will not eliminated until the Japanese authorities discontinue discriminative measures against pro-Pyongyang Koreans here.



Shown here are articles used by Oka Shigenobu when he turned on the gas in the kitchen of Hamamatsu Middle, Primary School in an attempt to blow up the school on Feb. 2, 1978.

Strong Protest against Japan Police

On the morning of Feb. 8, the CSC of Chongryun made a representation to the National Police Agency in connection with this case.

The representation says that the offenses committed by the Japanese right-wing group "Yosuisha" were aimed at destroying the democratic, national education system of Koreans here supporting Chongryun and stemmed from the hostile policy of the Japanese government which opposes the DPRK and discriminates pro-Pyongyang Koreans here.

Special attention must be paid to the fact that the portrait of the head of state was stolen by the criminal and that this was an act directed by someone behind the actual offender.

We demand that the police authorities take the following steps to prevent a case like this from recurring for the sake of social peace and order.

1. To punish severely the criminal and accomplices who comitted the acts of intrusion, theft and gas leakage, and make a thorough probe into the background of the case and order the return of stolen things.

1. To protect Korean schools from acts of violence by right-wing gangs.

1. To take proper measures to prevent recurrence of such a case.

On the afternoon of Feb. 7, representatives of Chongryun's Seibu chapter and Hamamatsu Korean school visited the Hamamatsu Central Police Office, asking them to take proper steps to prevent recurrence of such an act of violence.

The Japanese police authorities turned a deaf ear to the repeated demand of the Chongryun functionaries, parents of Korean school children and good-minded Japanese people, for preventing of outrages by Japanese right-wing gangs.

The Chongryun functionaries and parents of Korean school children, together with Japanese people in the neighbourhood of the school, are now fighting against the criminal act of the right-wing group.

Seoul's Farce to Create "Two Koreas"

The Seoul authorities are now beating drums that positive "diplomatic activities" ashould be conducted this year to create public opinion and a climate for "separate UN membership."

Pak Tong Jin, the puppet foreign minister, plans to visit at the beginning of March the United Nations to meet ambassadors of the U.N. and other "friendly countries" there and hold confabs with them about steps for attaining the vicious aim.

The Pak Jung Hi junta goes so far as to plan to send its agents to nonaligned countries so that they may support its policy for "two Koreas".

This shows how craftily the south Korean side is working to freeze the division of the country and create "two Koreas" through the United Nations under the patronage of their "friendly countries". This is an intolerable challenge to the entire Korean people and the world peace-loving people who want to see Korea reunified.

When the United Nations took a step favourable to Korea's reunification the south Korean puppets spoke ill of the United Nations, claiming that it was "incompetent" and "weak." But, they are now making desperate efforts to enter the United Nations. This brings into bold relief their intention to use the United Nations in achieving their splittist end.

The "simultaneous UN membership" for both north and south Korea and south Korea's "separate UN membership" spelt out by the domestic and foreign splittists are intended to perpetuate Korea's division and manufacture "two Koreas" through the United Nations.

The Pak Jung Hi junta is not qualified to enter the UN. It is nothing but a marionette regime which cannot exist even a day without the protection of the imperialist bayonets and stands rejected and isolated from within and without for its treacheries.

It is foolish of this clique to try hard to enter the UN and this is an insult to this organisation.

If Seoul enters the UN, the split of Korea will be fixed, Korean people's desire for the reunification of the country will not be realized, rendering the situation unstable. It will only increase the tension and the danger of war in Korea.

Korea, being split, must in no way enter the UN. It should do so after the reunification or as one state under the single national title at least after a confederation is set up.

The south Korean side had better give up their foolish attempt to lengthen their wretched existence by manufacturing "two Koreas" in reliance upon foreign forces and deport themselves with discretion.

58% Profit Made in S. Korean Deal

Nissho-Iwai Co. and Kawasaki Heavy Industries, the exporter and the manufacturer of machinery for Sinhan Insulator Co. of south Korea, made 58 percent gross profit out of the 760 million yen machinery deal.

Furthermore, a portion of the gross profit amounting to nearly 300 million yen remains unaccounted for even after subtracting the profit margin for the two Japanese companies, indicating another scandal in the Japanese economic cooperation deal with south Korea.

In the previous south Korea-related scandal which evolved around the Japanese export of a subway system to Seoul, Japanese trading companies received 10.5 percent gross profit out of which they paid a total of $2.5 million in rebates.

Established in south Korea to manufacture high tension insulators domestically, Sinhan Insulator Co. signed a commercial credit contract with Nissho-Iwai in June 1966 for construction of an insulator plant and a related-equipment plant.

Actual production of insulator manufacturing machinery and related-equipment facilities was undertaken by Kawasaki Heavy Industries. The machinery was exported through Nissho-Iwai to south Korea between March 1969 and October 1971.

The problem lies in the price of the machinery.

According to the affidavits Nissho-Iwai submitted to the Tokyo District Court concerning the commission payment contract filed by the former Sinhan Insulator president (the papers were dated Aug. 2, 1974 and July 8, 1976), the machinery for the two plants was priced at 759.6 million yen.

But Kawasaki Heavy Industries requested Asahi Insulator Co. and Awaji Industries Co. to make cost estimates of the insulator plant and the related metal parts plant, respectively.

The insulator plant was then estimated at 195 million yen (including 30 million yen technology fee) and the related plant at 93.76 million yen (including 10 million yen technology fee).

The estimates were made in the spring of 1969 and the first shipment took place in the fall of that year. The estimates were not believed to be at large variance with the actual machinery costs.

Although the insulator plant estimate did not include some machinery such as crushers, their cost would not amount to more than 30 million yen at the most. The crushers were manufactured by Kawasaki Heavy Industries.

As a result, the total equipment cost for the two plants amounted to merely 318.76 million yen or less than half the price Nissho-Iwai has been claiming.

Nissho-Iwai and Kawasaki Heavy Industries exported the plants for 759.6 million yen ($2.11 million) and reaped 440.84 million yen in gross profit. The gross profit accounts for 58 per cent of the export price.

For instance, the electrical testing equipment installed at the insulator plant was estimated at 28.57 million yen by an electrical equipment manufacturer and at 29.55 million yen by another. Thus, equipment worth 30 million yen was exported at 106,-744,320 yen (on export application).

In another instance, the transformer substation, which was estimated at 19,255,000 yen by the first electrical equipment manufacturer, was exported at 71,607,960 yen or more than three times the estimate.

The machinery price does not, however, include additional costs amounting to 264,564,000 yen necessary for plant completion.

Former Nissho-Iwai president Tsuji Yoshio testified before the Diet last spring that trading houses normally work on 5-6 percent profit margins.

In the case of the Sinhan plant export, nearly 300 million yen remains unaccounted for even on the assumption that Nissho-Iwai received 100 million yen profit, or nearly 10 percent of the total credit contracts, and Kawasaki Heavy Industries 50 million yen.

When Nissho-Iwai submitted its export application to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) at the end of 1968, it listed the machinery price at 1,003,644,000 yen. Later, the firm submitted to the Tokyo District Court affidavits claiming that the actual machinery price was 759.6 million yen and the rest was additional material costs.

But there remain the possibilities that the true machinery price was even higher and that Nissho-Iwai reaped an even larger gross profit than the amount uncovered.

Labor Conditions in South Korea

Following is an article on south Korean labor situation written by Ms Liz March who recently visited south Korea. She is a U.S. post-graduate student, now residing in Osaka, Japan.

☆ ☆

Anti-Labor Laws

Judging strictly from the labor laws on the books, the position of the government is definitely pro-labor. The worker is ostensibly protected by such basic laws as the Labor Standards Law, Labor Union Law, the Labor Dispute Adjustment Law and the Labor Committee Law, plus such piecemeal legislation as the Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Law, the Employment Security Law and the Social Security Law. These laws guarantee the worker the right to unionize and to bargain collectively, provides a "Bill of Rights for Workers" which should be principle for equal treatment, time and a half for overtime, a 48 hour work-week with a minimum 30 minute rest period for each 4 consecutive working hours, up to 20 days paid leave and 60 day maternity leave, special restrictions for women and minors, severance pay, etc. (Those interested in reading Korean Labor Laws in more detail, should refer to Park Young-Ki's LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN KOREA: SYSTEM AND PRACTICE.)

Whatever the laws are on paper, in fact they are rarely enforced. Part of the problem stems from the lack of enforcement funds and small enforcement staff—in 1974 there were only 97 inspectors to protect a working population of over 10 million. Some companies are too small to come under the provisions of the above laws, usually for 16 or more "constantly employed" workers. Most of all, the government lacks "the political need" to apply such laws. Indeed, with Article 9 of the Special Law on National Security, enacted in December 1971, the Labor Disputes Adjustment Law is suspended during the "state of emergency," suspending not only the union's right to go on strike, but also its right to bargain with an employer without prior approval of the government. The workers are in a poor bargaining position anyway, with the employment situation so bad. The government puts the national unemployment rate at 4½%, considering one hour a week's work to be "employment." Those using a 40 hour per week base, come up with figures of up to 30%. Labor mobility is low, for the traditional Seniority and Life Employment system makes it difficult for workers to move to other industries. "Work rules" reserve disciplinary measures over the employee and reinstatement of dismissed workers, as the exclusive right of the employer, further increasing worker insecurity. Complicated procedures for forming unions makes organizing difficult (See Park's book for details). Furthermore, Article 3 of the Labor Union Law prohibits the formation of new unions "when the purpose of the organization is to hamper the ordinary operation of an already existing union." This makes it impossible to organize a union begun in the interest of workers if there is already one begun by the company, and in effect, forces all unions to belong to one of the 17 national unions of the Federation of Korean Trade Unions. Such subservience has led to abuses, for local branch officers are subject to disciplinary action by the national union, which can use these delegated powers to both protect the membership from incompetency and to protect its own powers threatened by dissident factions. A member who criticizes the national officers may be expelled for "anti-union activity" or "defaming a union officer." Article 3 also empowers the government to make all interpretations of the article, ensuring that all unions will be pro-government. The Asian Free Labor Institute (AFLI) is associated with the American AFL-CIO, and is reported to receive funds from the CIA via this contact. They cooperate closely with FKTU, in planning educational programs and seminars. AFLI puts out a newsletter glorifying what is considerd rather trivial activities—like putting mirrors and wash basins in bus girls dorm rooms.

The unions already established generally don't want to organize the unorganized. They're usually the highest paid workers already (usually at the expense of the non-unionized) and don't want to endanger their position. Unions protect only union members, and labor laws protect only "constantly employed" permanent workers. However, many employers to avoid the hassles of unions and the expenses of protective labor laws, put their workers on a "permanent" "probationary period." By law, an employee is on probation for three months, after which time, s/he is either made a permanent employee or dismissed. Employers commonly fire the worker, then rehire him/her the next day, on a new 3-month "probationary period." There are workers who have been on "probation" for years and years and have never gained permanent status. The largest number of such probationary workers may be found in the shipyards (over 20%) and mines. The textile industry has a low percentage of temporary workers; most gain permanent status.

As might be expected, many employers oppose unions and fire workers who try to organize one. Management organizations such as the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Korean Industries, and the Korean Employers' Association have repeatedly criticized existing labor legislation as being too "idealistic" with no consideration of actual conditions.

Labor contracts cover only one local area for a maximum of one year. Actual determination of wages is done unilaterally by the employer, subject to union/workers' pressure and informal discussion with branch officials. The Joint Labor and Management Council handles grievances, but consults with management on matters of interest as well as rights. Thus the employers have the sole initiative for bargaining. There are no legal sanctions for contract violations. Office of Labor Affairs arbitration officers, assigned to districts, mediate disputes which management cannot solve immediately for itself. Many do their best for the workers, but others sell out to the companies. Some are said to be KCIA.

Special legislation for joint ventures, the "Provisional Exceptional Law Concerning Labor Unions and the Settlement of Labor Disputes in Foreign Invested Firms", enacted January 1, 1970, makes organizing even more difficult. The laws are more strict so the government can guarantee foreign investors a stable, quiet labor force. (Or, in the government's words, "to promote labor-management cooperation in foreign invested firms to accelerate the inducement of foreign capital, and thus to facilitate the development of the national economy".) The law states that the workers must "notify" the director general of the Office of Labor Affairs, rather than the usual head of the local OLA. Without a "certificate of notification" from the Director, no union can be organized (see Park's book for details). Thus, although by law workers may organize a union, in practice, no union has been formed in the Masan and Kumi industrial areas and free trade zones since the enactment of the Provisional Law.

Bad Work Conditions

Laws exist, but the gaps are glaring. The Labor Law enables the government to pass minimum wage laws, but it hasn't. There's no unemployment insurance. Instead, the Labor Standard Law requires each company to have a decent severance pay system, a minimum one month's salary for each year of service, but companies with less than 30 employees are exempted. Employees must be continuously employed for at least one year to qualify—those who are hired and fired three or four times a year are not covered. Places with strong unions and banks (5 months pay for each year of service to those with 20 years or more service) give workers good severance, but private companies are usually very delinquent. The Workman's Industry and Compensation Law requires employers to pay 3% of the employee's salary for the Compensation fund. In case of death the company pays 1000 days' wages plus funeral expenses. Still, no provision of the law or the enforcement decree designates which establishments or installations are to be included. One-third of all firms are without any safety personnel at all, and industrial accidents remain very high. According to the Masan Labor Ministry Office, by October of 1974, there had been 3002 industrial accidents in Masan alone. 80 people died last year in occupational accidents, and the amputee rate for metal industries is 5/10,000, for textiles 3/10,000. There is no health insurance, although certain companies provide a clinic service or have contracts with private hospitals. There is no national health plan, although the government says they are thinking of one.

The law sets the standard work week at 48 hours, but the 1973 Bulletin of Labor Statistics showed that workers in manufacturing industries worked an average of 52.3 hours a week. The 1972 Labor Force Survey of the OLA stated that machinists worked 278 hours in a 25 workday month, or over 11 hours a day. Bus girls work over 70 hours a week, usually 16-18 hours at a stretch.

Labor's biggest complaint is the low wages. Despite the increasing number of employees in manufacturing, the proportion of wage costs to total expenses has declined from 10.9% in 1971 to 8.3% in 1973. Wages differ from industry to industry, and within the industries themselves. For example, a worker in the petroleum refining industry earns four times what a worker in clothing manufacturing does. Averages given in the table below do not include "provisional" and non-unionized laborers, and hide sizeable discrepancies within each group. The United Workers' average is raised by including the highly paid KAL workers, although the garbage collectors earn less than 20,000 won a month.

Figures extracted from the FKTU annual report (Aug. 1975 figures) (monthly wages in won)—(480 won in $1 U.S.)

Textiles 35,094
(all private companies) Highly org. 100,000/300,000
Miners (coal) 62,303
private: ½gov. ½private, manual workers only
Electronics 69,664
private, does not include any clerical workers
r. Am. Forces 90,890
low % organized
Communications 40,108
100% unionized, union shop
Railroad 50,453
100% organized, Gov. monopoly
Transportation 52,285
16,081/25,000 org. doesn't include taxi or bus drivers. Mostly loading and unloading for Korean Express company (same co. as dockworkers)
Metal workers 40,776
One of least org. 56,936/400,000
Chemical 34,538
Covers rubber, medicine, pulp, pharmaceuticals, bakeries, various, some of which are highly paid and some very low (ex: bakeries and pharm.) One of lowest org. 76,797/500,000
Dock workers 36,292
org. 19,894/25,000
Auto workers 61,906
bus drivers, taxi drivers, bus girls. Pay again varies within group. Drivers alone make over 90,000, bus girls—15-20,000 (emp. provide meals and housing) sometimes ed. too. All private. Biggest union in country. 106,234/150,000.
United Workers 47,964
Least organized group. Small-scale organ. or ind. who can't form own org. amalgamated into one group. Seoul street cleaners/garbage men biggest group within union (4,000). 45,667 /???# not known, 500,000 millions.

These wages should be balanced against the government minimum for a basic standard of living for the average family of 5.2—78,054 won /month (as of May 1, 1975). The CPI increase in 1975 was 25.2%, which would now mean a minimum 93,665 won/month. Thus by the government's own statistics, wages are far below subsistence. While wages are increasing, prices are too, but at a faster rate. Last year the price of rice went up over 50%, while wages rose only 23%. Workers are also hit by an increasing proportion of indirect taxes. Only direct taxes are graduated. In the early 1960's most taxes were direct: 70% direct / 30% indirect. Now (1975) a full 60% of the taxes are indirect. Sales tax is about 20%. Daily necessities are exempt from taxation.

Specifics

Conditions of course vary from industry to industry, from company to company, and even department to department. In general, those with unions are better off than those without, but this is not necessary so. For example, Il Byong-chol, one of the biggest businessmen in Korea, with big textile factories in Taegu, gives good wages, good dorm facilities, and provides extra-curricular activities for the young women employees (like typing and home economics courses). Some say that the conditions there are better than most unionized factories. With good working conditions he tries to avoid covert unions from being organized. The women have no voice, but then unions are usually weak anyway. Forming unions/and re-organizing old ones to better represent the workers' interests, used to be one of the major workers' demands. This has become increasingly risky with the government's crackdown on any "disruptive elements". Wages generally take top priority over working conditions.

Names of specific Korean factories will be omitted rather than needlessly endangering Korean lives. The KCIA are everywhere and have at least a general idea of who is working where. Should they learn of specific information being circulated abroad, they could trace the sources.

TEXTILES:

The textile industry requires relatively unskilled work, and so women can easily get jobs. The Peace Market in downtown Seoul, a 5 story building housing 150 different shops, always needs people. Most of the workers are hired as low-paid temporary workers for three months, and then fired. Normal hours are 8 am to evening, but during the Korean New Year and change of seasons, they usually work all night. Right now there is a "purge" to tear down all the illegal low-ceiling partitions of the small textile factories. The ceilings are so low that the workers cannot stand up straight. The people work above each other on these new "floors". They will be removed for a while, but will soon reappear, just like so many other things which are carried out temporarily for the publicity.

Taegu's industry is largely textiles. Smaller shops provide a kind of dormitory for girls, with up to six people in a room and cafeteria attached. Labor consciousness in Taegu is very low, and labor struggles are almost nonexistent. The region is known for its conservatism and tight controls.

S. Company near Seoul has about 250 workers, 85% of whom are women. The company makes sweaters for export. Last year's collective bargaining results were bad for the workers, mainly due to too much manager-oriented representation in the labor union. The workers are trying to reorganize the labor union. Although they received two 30% wage increases, the minimum wage is still only 380 won/day, and a maximum of 1,200 won/day, for those with 5 years' seniority. Last July the company reduced working hours to less than 10. Most of the women are single, 18-24 years old. However, there are also about thirty 14-16 year old kids, immigrants from the country, working there illegally. About eighty women live in the dorms: 6'x10' rooms, three or four women each. There is no cafeteria, only one gas (range) which the women line up sometimes for hours to use. Rent is 900 won a month. The rest of the women rent rooms on the outside, usually paying about 1500 won a month.

N. Company, also near Seoul, makes nylon garments for export. Although 90% of its 20,000 workers are women, the union chairman is a man. Like most textile companies, it's union shop, but again, the union takes the company side. The workers pay 1% of their salaries in union dues, but they don't know how the 50,000 won collected so far has been used, and their union manager won't tell them. In this year's election the workers will have to elect 20 representatives to change the union leadership. Wages are 400 won/day, which is not bad compared to other places. Although there are twenty national holidays in Korea, there are none in the company.

P. Company is a big textile mill of 5,000 workers. 150 of them have been kept on as temporary workers for three years now, receiving no fringe benefits, overtime pay, holidays, etc. There is a union, but since these 150 workers are "temporary", and thus not union members, it is not concerned with their problem. They've been struggling for three months and have gone on strike twice.

D. Company in another section of Seoul, has 1,500 workers, 1,300 women. During the catch-up X-mas season there is a lot of overtime with no holidays and no overtime pay. The workers get 3 days off at Korean New Year's. Newcomers are paid 540 won/day; after six months, wages are increased but then remain the same for the next year and a half. A worker with 5 years' seniority gets the top wage of 700 won/day. Overtime is 1/10 of the day's wage.

B. Company workers were very active in labor struggles. They went on strike for a 65% increase in wages, got 45% and were not picked up by the KCIA. They went on strike again, when the management wouldn't let a woman become the union leader. This time the KCIA picked up 17 leaders, torturing 4. All were finally released. Most of the women, single, live in dorms, which have no showers and no heating.

At another sweater knitting company, east of Seoul, there is no union, no holidays, and no severance pay. Overtime pay is very low. At H Company near Seoul, the workers have to work 18 or 20 hour days at a time, from 8 in the morning until 3 or 4 the next morning. The workers eat pills to stay awake. There's no union.

CHEMICAL COMPANIES:

H Chemical Company has 1,200 workers with comparatively good conditions; a subsidiary makes bread. They've had labor unions for two years now but they aren't very good. There used to be no lunch break in the 12 hour days, for 240won/day. The labor union has taken no action on any of the workers' complaints. Finally, the workers demonstrated 1st March, resulting in a 25% increase in wages, holidays, and a lunch break. Even with the increase, wages are still considered low.

J. Chemical Company organized a union in 1969. It's franchise. The company owner kept 10% of the workers' wages for himself. There were no holidays. The union has since been re-organized and the above conditions corrected.

METAL:

In A Company the union had previously cooperated with the company. It was re-organized by the workers, but company pressure later destroyed it. Under this union, wages increased to 350 won/8 hour day. Later the workers went on strike for the right to a union. Elections are this year and they hope to re-organize the union again. After the strike wages increased 20% from a minimum of 420 won/day to 500 won/day.

FOREIGN:

Generally speaking, organizing in foreign-owned companies is much more difficult, first because of the special laws governing them, as mentioned above, and second because conditions are better than the average domestic firm. Wages are one to two thousand won higher/month than Korean companies. Specifics on American and Japanese owned companies is also dangerous to obtain, since the government especially doesn't want workers to trouble the foreign investors that the country depends on for its GNP. Specifics relating to the Masan Export Free Zone are from the translation of a Sekai article.

Banks: Japanese bank workers are much better paid than those working in American banks. Recently the American bank workers asked for an 80% wage increase, more on a par with wages received in Japanese banks. The banks at first offered 6%, and then agreed to 30-35%. Although both sides were willing and there was no dispute, thus no reason for the government to step in, the Office of Labor Affairs reduced it 20-25%.

Electronics: Japanese firms (like Toshiba, Mitsui) are all joint industries; the American firms (Semico, Fairchild Oakes, Motorola) are direct investment. Generally, the American firms pay more, but give poor fringe benefits. Unlike the Japanese firms, they give no wage increases based on the length of service. Japanese firms also provide for housing, transportation, and sometimes even education. The government is beginning to strongly encourage more foreign electrical companies to come in. Most are around Seoul.

Twenty six of the companies in the Masan Free Trade Zone are electrical companies. During production, welding is done which causes a large accumulation of lead smoke; however, none of the necessary ventilation has been installed. Lead poisoning is common, and workers suffer from severe nausea and headache. A majority of the workers in electronics suffer impairment of eyesight. In one relatively known case, two years ago, in an American company, Signetics, eyesight impairment was well documented by eyetests. Still, the workers themselves are more concerned about wages. Research on the company was also done in Singapore, but because of the researchers' leftist orientation, anyone in Korea taking up the cause of Signetics' workers is branded a Communist. Most union leaders and workers are thus afraid of getting involved and take the company side. There is still no severance pay or compensation for eye damage or glasses. 1,000 workers became organized in 1973. Although 90% of the workers are women, all the union leaders are men. Wages have been increasing and are about 1,000 won/day now. The company demands a lot of overtime. It fired 200 women recently for economic reasons; they received 3 months salary as severance pay.

Iseden electronics company in Masan has no facilities whatever for rest or relaxation. The flourescent lighting has caused many of the long-time workers' faces to swell. Again, workers complain of the progressive loss of eyesight.

An attempt to organize Japanese-owned Crown Electric Company failed. The company fired some of the union leaders and re-organized the union so that it is now pro-management. Although there are worker education programs—teaching workers about union and labor laws—organizing is slow and risky.

UNION ASBESTOS: The amount of asbestos dust is so great that Japanese-made dust proof masks do not ensure full protection from asbestos poisoning. Noise levels are so high that two people standing next to each other cannot hear each other. Machines in the smelting rooms heat up to 300 degrees and the workers in their vicinity often have difficulty breathing.

MATTELL: Mattell's 3,000 workers received a 100% increase after a strike last spring (to 480-500 won/day.) Everybody worked one hour a day overtime, but received no overtime pay because the hour was split, a half hour before work and a half hour after. (Korean law stipulates one hour minimum before overtime is paid.) The workers figured they had lost a total of 150 million won in one year—for unpaid overtime (severance pay did not count overtime either.) Company men beat the workers and women were fired who used false names to hide their age. There was no union and the company fired two union organizers. Workers started organizing and last spring 280 signed a powerful statement addressed to the Labor Affairs Bureau and the company owner, asking for redress, including rehiring of those fired and firing of those who were guilty of beating. The company complied with all requests.

ARMED FORCES:

A special appeal was made to help the 5,000 Koreans working on U.S. military bases who are not covered by U.S. Defense Department appropriated funds. Men working over 20 years on these bases receive only 23,000 won a month, versus 100,000 won received by those covered by Defense appropriations. These 5,000 receive no benefits, no severance pay—they depend on whatever the GI's are willing to give them to make ends meet.

BUS GIRLS: Bus conductors (very young women) work long hours, 70 or so hours a week, and receive wages between 15,000 and 21,000 won/month. Employers generally provide meals and dormitory housing. It is said that girl's pay can be docked up to 300 won a day if the bus falls behind schedule (one reason why Korean buses barely pause at the stops.) Installed in the step of most buses is a counting device to record the number of passengers. It registers any weight over 20 kilograms (including packages and small children.) The buses are often crowded and people forced onto the stairs repeatedly. The girls fares are supposed to tally at the end of the day with the obviously inaccurate counter device. In January 1976, one girl whose fares didn't tally at the end of her run was accused with stealing the money. She was stripped and searched (by a woman supervisor.) The experience caused her to attempt suicide. She was admitted to hospital. The bus company refused to pay the bill. In Korea you must pay the bill before you are released from the hospital. As she hadn't the moeny to pay, she was forced to remain longer than necessary, mounting an ever-higher bill. During the incident the Korean Federation of Trade Unions said that they were requiring the counters to be removed. It was announced that any counters remaining after a certain date would be removed by Seoul City. A priest in labor work commented that the announcements were just for show and appeasement, but that no little change could be hoped for untill the girls were organized.

A workers' program that receives no government interference because of its seemingly non-political bent and because of nationwide strength is the Credit Union, or Poor People's Bank. In one Seoul Credit Union each member may borrow up to 200% of whatever he has deposited at 2% interest. Repayment periods vary with the amount borrowed: 10 months for under 100,000 won, 15 months for 100,000-150,000 won, and 30 months for over 150,000 won. Every January any profits are divided among the members. One groups profit margin last year was 14%.

The CU League is an international movement that trains its members in "Eight Principles of Cooperation", the history of the movement, bookkeeping, etc. Through participation the people learn to be decision-makers. Thus, the CUL is political as well as economic. It is very popular in heavy factory districts; once trained, the workers in each factory have set up their own credit unions. In rural areas, where population and income is low, rice-banks are more useful, because of the relatively low 'money income' in the country.

One of the keys for remedying labor conditions in Korea—whether in domestic or foreign owned companies—is educating the workers. In spite of the increasing risks, such education programs are continuing—one group has already trained 30,000 workers.

New study groups are being set up in Korea to investigate conditions in foreign-owned companies. There has been limited success in the past due to KCIA pressure, and most are pessimistic about any future studies. Some believe that such studies must come from the outside. Some people are also depressed by their limited access to information due to tight government censorship and fragmentation from KCIA-inspired mistrust. Others believe that collation and analysis of over-all conditions may also have to come from the outside.

a view of Masan Free Export Zone

Seoul Price Index Jumps

South Korea's urban area consumer price index, standing at 135.5 in January, showed the highest monthly rise since September 1975 with a 3.5 per cent jump, the puppet Economic Planning Board announced on February 8.

The rise threatened the south Korean regime's announced goal of keeping this year's annual inflation rate within 10 percent.

Weekly "Chugan Simin" Suspended

The Seoul city weekly "Chugan Simin (Weekly for Citizens)" was forced to suspend its publication, according to a report from Seoul.

The Feb. 6 issue of the magazine carried an announcement saying that "its publication was suspended from Feb. 6 in preparation for the installation of new teleprinters and a new office building. Informed sources, however, indicated that the authorities put pressure upon the company to stop the magazine from covering the low-wage problem."

The magazine, since its inauguration in 1970, has printed articles on the exploitation of the workers and peasants. Among the editorial staff members were former reporters of the daily "Tonga Ilbo" who had been discharged for their struggle for the freedom of speech.

Among its columnists were Song Gon Ho, former managing editor of "Tonga Ilbo" and Han Wan Sang, former professor of Seoul National University. It also ran a seriate article, an "Estrangement Area," dealing with the life of the workers in the lowermost of the social scale.

"Chugan Simin" is the foremost in its coverage of the plight of low-wage earners since the monthly review "Taehwa (Conversation)" was discontinued in autumn last.

U.S. Human Rights Report Hits S. Korea

South Korea has been accused of major human rights violations by the U.S. State Department.

The accusation came in the department's annual report to Congress on human rights in 105 countries which receive U.S. military or economic assistance. The annual report was made public on Feb. 9.

In respect to south Korea, the report indicated that political prisoners are beaten and held in solitary confinement and there exist continued arrests, detentions and searches without warrants under the Korean "regime's emergency measures" power.

"As of late 1977, we estimate that fewer than 150 persons remained in prison under Korean emergency measures," the report says.

"At the heart of the human-rights problems in Korea is the restriction of political liberties," the report says.

Washington Post has obtained copies of the reports on some countries including south Korea. Saying that these countries have figured prominently in charges that the administration, despite its commitment to human rights, continues to support repression regime, the Feb. 7 issue paper said:

"The sources said, south Korea, which is considered strategically important to American military interests in northern Asia, will continue to receive a high degree of military aid. The sources were unable to specify the exact amount that will be requested for 1979, but the administration earlier this year announced a $1.8 billion military aid program for south Korea to compensate for the planned withdrawal of U.S. ground forces there."

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